

Aquarium Glass

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Aquarium Glass

by [azulecove](#)

Summary

(REWRITTEN!!)

Cobyn and Sandbag go on their first date to the aquarium! They're both understandably nervous, but Cobyn wants to make sure the date goes well!

Notes

inspired by this tweet from rach !! https://x.com/hankatun_side/status/1904354199690793031

this has been REWRITTEN!!! i have a better grasp of the characters now and i wanted to do them justice by rewriting this :D

See the end of the work for [more notes](#)

It took Coby a few seconds to take in the aquarium building in front of him, the scents and sounds of the nearby ocean washing over him. The exterior was nothing special, but they knew there were wonders to be explored inside of it. Remembering why he came here, he snapped out of his daydreaming and started the walk to the entrance.

The families and couples standing around brought a smile to his face, seeing them share his excitement for the aquarium. Although, he was sure that most of them weren't as nervous as he was as well. This was his first time on a date, and while he had done quite a bit of research, they were still uncertain about how exactly to be a good partner. But there was something that made Sandbag fall in love with him in the first place, so Coby just had to keep on doing... whatever that was. Should he just act like his usual self, or try to be something more? He wasn't sure.

Once inside, his attention was immediately brought to the sheer size of the place. It felt much larger on the inside than what the exterior gave off, and he could honestly spend all day just looking around the building and observing the interior design... But he had something much more important to attend to. Plus, it'd be much more enjoyable to walk around with someone by his side.

They headed towards the inside cafe, double checking his phone to make sure that was the arranged meeting spot. It wasn't long before he spotted his date, sitting at one of the tables in the cafe. Sandbag was scrolling through his phone, but glanced up and smiled upon seeing Coby. He smiled back, quickening his pace until he reached Sandbag.

"You, uh, look really good today!" Coby stumbled out as he sat down, cheeks flushing. They were able to compliment Sandbag perfectly fine before they started dating, but it seemed like adding romance to the mix confused his brain. Luckily, Sandbag didn't seem put off by the other's stumble, his eyes widening with a blush appearing on his face.

"Oh, uh, thanks. You, uh... look good too! Really good!" Sandbag put his head in his hands, shyly looking away from Coby, "God, sorry... All of this is just new to me and I don't want to mess it up."

Coby reached over to gently put his hand on Sandbag's arm, drawing its attention back to them as he spoke, "You have nothing to be sorry for! I appreciate that you're putting lots of care into this, but mistakes and fumbles happen and that's perfectly alright! Plus I'm certain I'll make plenty of stumbles myself, this is new to me too."

Sandbag hesitantly moved his arm lower, until Coby's hand rested on its own hand. When Coby didn't move away, he grabbed onto their hand, bashfully smiling at the other. "Wow... we're both in our 20s yet we haven't gone on a single date... Two grown men acting like teenagers having their first crush." The two laughed at the comment, Coby feeling some of his anxieties ease away knowing he wasn't the only one unfamiliar with dating.

It stood up, not letting go of Coby's hand as he looked around, "It's wild that you haven't been here, you've been missing out! If you want, I know a good route that makes sure we get

to see everything. But I totally understand if you just want to explore and find things naturally.”

“We can go with your route!” Coby replied, standing up as well. He used their unoccupied hand to smoothen out his clothes, making sure their bag was secure before stepping up next to Sandbag, “I have no doubt that with your experience, we can have a wonderful date here!”

Sandbag shook his head fondly, giving Coby a playful nudge, “I’d say you don’t have to be so formal around me, but at this point I’ve accepted that it’s just a part of you. Still, don’t be afraid to loosen up a bit. Like you said, we’re both going to fumble and that’s alright, I just want to spend time with the one I love.”

“... Ugh, sorry that was really damn cheesy,” Sandbag groaned, pulling his bandana down a bit. Coby laughed, adjusting its bandana back to its original position.

“I thought it was sweet! It sounds like something right out of a romance movie!” They squeezed his hand, “I watched plenty of those to make sure that I could treat you right today!”

“You... You got your romance tips from cheesy movies?! Oh fuck...” Sandbag sighed, chuckling as he spoke with an obviously joking tone, “If at any point you tell me you get lost in my eyes I will not hesitate to leave you here.”

“Understood!” The two laughed once again, Coby feeling more relaxed than he had been walking in. It was a shame that most of his romance movie knowledge wouldn’t be put to use, but they didn’t need any movie to tell them that he connected naturally with Sandbag. They just hoped Sandbag felt the same.

The first exhibit was just across from the cafe, the bright light of the lobby fading into the dark of the entryway. The two were quickly cast in shadows as they walked in, and it wasn’t long before Coby spotted what the exhibit was showing off. Turning to their left, they gazed upon the large aquarium holding beautiful jellyfish. Amazed, he approached the sign nearby, reading over the little info sheet they had displayed for each different aquatic animal.

“Egg-yolk jellyfish...” He read the name out loud, eyes flickering from the sign to the jellyfish and back to the sign before smiling, “I can definitely see where it got its name from, that is a very yellow jellyfish!”

Sandbag nodded, observing one of the jellyfish slowly drift in the water, “Sometimes, animals like crabs stay on top of or inside their bell to help them travel. These types are one of the larger species, they live in cold waters and are most commonly found in the Northern Pacific ocean.”

Coby nodded along, mouth open in a small “O” shape as he processed the information, “That’s very kind of them to help other sea animals! Although I do have to ask... Which part is their bell?”

“Oh, uh... Sorry, I got caught up in my ramble...” It bashfully pointed at the drawing of the jellyfish on the sign, “The bell is basically their head. There’s actually a nervous system in it that helps them move a bit, but they mainly just drift with the currents.”

“Don’t be sorry, I like hearing more about these really interesting creatures! I appreciate you telling me so much!” Cobyn beamed, looking at the jellyfish enclosure, “Is it alright if I take a closer look?”

Sandbag paused, reluctantly sliding his hand out of Cobyn’s as he nodded, “You don’t have to ask me, just go for it. I’ll stay back here, I’ve seen this exhibit a lot so I want you to have a chance to just take it in, you know? This place really is magical...” It smiled at them, but Cobyn noticed that he sounded... off. It was very subtle, and he couldn’t quite determine what made it different, but it was definitely there.

“Okay! But if you ever want to come up and get a closer look, you should! For me, what helps make this place magical is that you’re experiencing it with me, even if it’s something you’re familiar with!” Cobyn walked up closer to the glass, watching the jellyfish. They were even more beautiful close up, but it felt odd standing there without Sandbag. If it didn’t want to get closer though, they wouldn’t force him.

The two made their way through the exhibits, and every time after Sandbag shared fun facts about whatever they were looking at, it would stand a bit away from the enclosure while the other got a closer look. Cobyn didn’t comment on it, not wanting to make it uncomfortable, but he silently wondered why it never went to get a closer look. Even if it was something Sandbag had seen multiple times before, they thought it would like looking at them closely still. But no matter what they were looking at, he never got any closer.

Finally, they arrived at their last exhibit, one of the largest in the aquarium. The shark exhibit. Cobyn was particularly excited for this one, not because of any of his own interests but because of Sandbag. One of his boyfriend’s biggest interests were sharks, Cobyn loved to listen whenever it would infodump about them, knowing that he appreciated whenever Sandbag would listen to their own infodumps about plants. Others tended to be annoyed by Cobyn’s rambles, so he got used to their plants being his only friends. But Sandbag was never annoyed by the tangents he went on, actually listening to them and asking questions. It felt nice to not feel annoying, to feel like they were being respected. The least Cobyn could do was make Sandbag feel the same way.

“That’s a... hammerhead shark, right? Their head shape is very recognizable, I mean... It surely looks like a hammer!” Cobyn pointed to a nearby shark, slowly swimming through the water, “Apologies if I’m remembering wrong, but aren’t they one of the few kinds of shark that can eat plants, if not the only kind?”

“You’re thinking of the bonnethead shark, which is a species of hammerhead shark,” Sandbag explained, eyes lighting up as it continued, “Hammerhead shark isn’t an animal on its own, there’s ten species of it! This one is actually a scalloped hammerhead shark, you can tell by the two indents on its head.”

The way Sandbag brightened as he talked brought a smile to Coby's face as he responded, "Oooh! Thank you for correcting me, I didn't notice the indents until you pointed them out!" He turned towards Sandbag, tilting his head towards the exhibit, "You should come with me to look at them! You can point out all the details of our shark friends!"

"Oh, uh..." Sandbag's excitement quickly faded, bringing his hands closer to his chest as he glanced between the sharks and Coby, "No, it's fine. You can go up there yourself..."

Coby looked at his boyfriend with worry, unable to hold in his concerns anymore, "Is everything okay? You haven't gone up with me to look closely at any of the animals..." He looked down, remorseful, "If I did something wrong, I do apologize. I just want you to be able to enjoy yourself here."

Sandbag quickly shook his head, grabbing onto Coby's hand, "No, it's not anything you did. You've been... wonderful... It's just that..." He started to tremble, tears forming at the corners of his eyes, "God... this is so stupid..."

Coby moved his free hand to cup Sandbag's face, causing a few tears to fall and land on his hand, "If something is bothering you this much, then I don't think it's something stupid. If you don't feel comfortable telling me, that's okay too."

"Don't laugh but... I'm afraid..." More tears began to fall as Sandbag explained, "I'm afraid of accidentally breaking the aquarium glass. I know it's a stupid fear, I know they make the glass sturdy enough to handle sharks, but I can't get too close before my brain starts screaming at me that I'm going to fuck everything up. That I'm going to break everything, I'm going to harm the animals... I know that isn't the truth, but no matter how many times I try to tell my brain that, the fear always gets the best of me."

A few seconds passed, Sandbag anxiously letting go of Coby's hand as it stepped back, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to ruin everything with my stupid--"

He was interrupted by Coby pulling him into a tight hug, Sandbag freezing for a moment before he was unable to hold back his sobs any longer. He clung to Coby, hugging him back just as tightly as he cried into his boyfriend's shirt.

"That isn't stupid at all! Our brains like to lie to us, and even if we're aware they're lies, that doesn't mean we can't struggle with them. You're not stupid or dumb or anything of the sorts for struggling with this, it's not your fault," Coby pulled back a bit, just enough to look Sandbag in his tearful eyes, "I know this isn't something you can just handle in a day, but I'd like for you to be able to look at the sharks at least. Maybe we can go stare at them for a few seconds together? You can hold my hand and once it gets overwhelming we can step back!"

Sandbag hesitated, looking away from them, "This shouldn't be something you have to deal with. I'm not a child, I should be able to go look at the sharks myself. Plus I'm fine with looking at them from a distance, I don't need to get closer."

"Accepting assistance while you're struggling doesn't make you a child. You're the one who ultimately chooses whether you want to get closer or not, and if you don't then that's

perfectly okay! I'm just happy to help if I can. I love you, after all," Cobynt gently smiled, using his thumb to brush away some of Sandbag's tears.

"I... love you too..." It shyly smiled up at Cobynt, letting himself enjoy the moment for a few seconds before pulling away, "Now that's enough of that. I say we go look at some sharks!" He shot its boyfriend a nervous yet excited grin, holding his hand tightly.

Cobynt grinned back, giving Sandbag's hand a squeeze, "That would be lovely, dear."

End Notes

thank you all for reading!! <3

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